

American Democracy at Both Ends of Pennsylvania Avenue ()

Summer 2021

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10:00 a.m. ~ 12:50 p.m. & [Room]

office: **16-513** & email: okyeonh@snu.ac.kr

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 a.m.-noon or by appointment

Graduate Student Assistant: TBD

I. Course description

This course introduces students to the specifics of American presidentialism in comparative perspective. It consists of three parts: 1) a 50-minute long lecture, followed by a 10-minute break, and then, 2) team presentation on a case study of comparing one or two democracies, one more 10-minute break, and finally 3) class discussion. The second part of class starts with team presentation in which a group of 3 to 4 students select a comparative case of other democracies. Depending on the size of class, two to three groups take part in the second and third portion of class respectively to facilitate class discussion. Student participation in ONE team presentation is mandatory.

II. Grades

1. Mid-term exam (30%) + Final exam (30%) + team presentation (20%) + Attendance (20%)

1) Please read thoroughly the relevant chapter(s) from the textbook prior to class **so that you can actively participate in class discussion. Then review the same chapter(s) and/or the core theme of the video you watched in class to prepare for midterm and final exams.** If the final exam score shows a significant improvement over the midterm score, I will put an extra weight on your final score.

2) The midterm and final exams will cover the materials roughly up to the first half and the remaining half of the term respectively. They consist of one-sentence Q&A and short essay (3-5 sentences) questions. There is **no make-up for either exam**, unless you can substantiate your unavoidable absence.

3) Regular and timely attendance is also required, amounting to the twenty percent of your total grade.

4) A team presentation refers to the second-part briefing, in which **a team of three to four students may select 2-3 main topics of the respective chapter of the week and introduce those selective topics, preferably by adding your own researched materials (ex. Youtube, newspaper clippings, etc.).** For example, you can present your summary report on the history of presidential primaries. You are to moderate **a lively (really!)** class discussion afterward. Please upload your presentation materials to the eTL to share amongst your classmates PRIOR TO class.

III. Texts

1) Smith, Raymond. 2019. *The American Anomaly: U.S. Politics and Government in Comparative Perspective*, 4th ed. (New York: Routledge).

* You can rent it for a fee from Amazon Kindle*

IV. Class Schedule

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1. Orientation (June 27th, 2022)

2. Course Introduction (June 29th, 2022)

-on syllabus, exams, team presentation, grade, etc.

3. The U.S. Constitution (July 1st, 2022)

- Smith (2018), “The U.S. Constitution”

4. Federalism (July 4th, 2022)

- Smith (2018), “Federalism”

5. Separation of Powers (July 6th, 2022)

- Smith (2018), “Separation of Powers”

6. Federal Executive Branch (July 8th, 2022)

- Smith (2018), “The Executive Branch: The Presidency and the Bureaucracy”

7. Federal Legislative Branch (July 11th, 2022)

- Smith (2018) “The Legislative Branch: The Two Houses of Congress”

8. Federal Courts (July 13th, 2022)

- Smith (2018), “The Judiciary Branch: The Supreme Court and the Federal Courts”

9. Mid-term exam (July 15th, 2022) 10:00 a.m. ~ 12:50 p.m.

- U.S. Constitution, federalism, separation of powers, federal executive branch, federal legislative branch, federal courts

10. Nation and State (July 18th, 2022)

- Smith (2018), “The American Nation, State, and Regime”

11. Public Opinion and Mass Media (July 20th, 2022)

- Smith (2018), “Public Opinion and Mass Media”

12. Voting and Elections (July 22nd, 2022)

- Smith (2018), “Voting and Elections”

13. Interest Groups (July 25th, 2022)

- Smith (2018), "Unconventional Political Participation: Activism, Social Movements, and Interest Groups"

14. Political Parties (July 27th, 2022)

- Smith (2018), "Political Parties"

15. Final Exam (July 29th, 2022) 10:00 am ~ 12:50 pm

- nation and state, public opinion and mass media, voting and elections, interest groups, political parties-

V. Assisting Students with Disabilities

Please make an appointment with me or TA if you need course adaptations or accommodations, or if you have any emergency medical information that requires our awareness. For further assistance, feel free to ask TA to contact the Office of Student Disability Services (☎02-880-8787) on your behalf. Although it is my responsibility to strive for equal access to education, the student has the following responsibilities:

- registering with Student Disability Services,
- identifying himself or herself as disabled if the disability is not obvious,
- arranging for orientation to campus through Student Disability Services,
- contacting Student Disability Services regarding alternative formats for textbooks and exams,
- arranging for in-class note takers and/or interpreters or tape recording lectures through Student Disability Services,
- requesting alternative evaluation or testing procedures in advance.

